

## Message Text

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ORIGIN MED-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 IO-14 SCI-06 HEW-08 AID-20 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 /111 R

DRAFTED BY DG/MED:MSWOLFE,M.D.:DBH

APPROVED BY DG/MED:MSWOLFE, M.D.

EURYSOV:FMISCH (SUBS)

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R 222125Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 107379

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: AMED OSCI UR US

SUBJECT: GIARDIASIS IN USSR

REF: MOSCOW 7567

GENEVA PLEASE PASS TO DR. PAUL EHRLICH JR. (USDEL TO WHO)

DEPARTMENT GREATLY APPRECIATES INFORMATION CONVEYED IN  
REFTEL. DG/MED OFFERS FOLLOWING COMMENTS WHICH MAY BE  
USEFUL IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS WITH MINHEALTH.

1. RE PARA 5, CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC) DID NOT  
AGREE THAT BRODSKY'S CHARGES WERE "WITHOUT FOUNDATION" AND  
THAT FAULTY DATA WAS SENT TO POST. ARTICLE IN MAY 12  
NEW YORK TIMES QUOTES USPHS OFFICIALS AS REMAINING  
CONVINCED THAT AMERICANS HAD BECOME INFECTED DURING VISITS  
TO LENINGRAD AND THAT "WE STAND BY THE STRENGTH OF OUR  
DATA."

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2. RE PARA 6, SYMPTOMS OF GIARDIASIS SELDOM RESEMBLE

CHOLERA AND IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT "ANY CASES OF GIARDIASIS WOULD AUTOMATICALLY DRAW ATTENTION OF PHYSICIANS." INDEED AN ARTICLE WE TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN (AKIMOVA, R., MEDITSINSKAYA PARAZITOLOGIA PARAZITARNYYE, MAY-JUNE 1969, P. 272-277) INDICATES THAT ACCORDING TO SOVIET AND FOREIGN AUTHORS, GIARDIASIS IS DEMONSTRABLE IN 45-90 PRCNT OF HEALTHY CHILDREN ATTENDING CRECHES. WOULD EXPECT THIS IS REASON FOR STOOL EXAM REQUIREMENT FOR AMERICAN CHILDREN ENTERING RUSSIAN NURSERY SCHOOLS (AS PER MOSCOW POST HEALTH REPORT).

3. RE PARA 8, THE HIGHEST REPORTED RATE OF ENDEMIC GIARDIASIS IN US IS ABOUT 5 IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN AREA. RATE CAN OF COURSE BE HIGHER IN INSTITUTIONALIZED PATIENTS.

4. RE PARA 9, CANNOT EXPECT ANYWHERE NEAR 100 PERCENT INCIDENCE TO OCCUR EVEN IF ALL DRANK WATER. WE ALSO REMAIN SUSPICIOUS THAT WATER MAY NOT BE ONLY SOURCE OF INFECTION. FOOD HANDLERS CONTAMINATING COLD SALADS AND FOODS COULD BE SIGNIFICANT FACTOR. ALTHOUGH LENINGRAD APPEARS TO BE MAJOR SOURCE OF INFECTION, QUITE LIKELY SOME INFECTIONS CONTRACTED IN MOSCOW ALSO.

5. RE PARA 10, IT MIGHT BE WELL WORTHWHILE TO HAVE STOOL EXAMS ANALYZED BY LOCAL LABORATORY IN MOSCOW. BUT IF THIS IS TO BE DONE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT PART OF SAME SPECIMEN SUBMITTED BE SENT AT SAME TIME TO DG/MED IN MIF KITS TO INSURE COMPARABILITY.

6. RE PARA 11, EVEN IF TOURISTS WERE FORCED TO LEAVE SAMPLE ON DAY OF DEPARTURE FROM USSR, FINDINGS WOULD NOT BE VALID IN VIEW OF USUAL 7 TO 14 OR MORE DAYS INCUBATION PERIOD, WHICH RESULTS IN MOST INFECTIONS NOT BECOMING CLINICALLY SIGNIFICANT OR RECOGNIZED IN STOOL UNTIL RETURN TO U.S.

7. RE PARA 12, DEPARTMENT WISHES TO HAVE DR. MARTIN WOLFE, TROPICAL MEDICINE SPECIALIST OF DG/MED INCLUDED IN ANY SCIENTIFIC GROUP INVITED TO INVESTIGATE GIARDIASIS IN USSR. DR. MILLETT HAS ALREADY SUGGESTED TO MEDICAL

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DIRECTOR THAT DR. WOLFE COME TO DISCUSS SITUATION WITH SOVIETS AND TO ASSIST WITH PROBLEM IN OFFICIAL U.S. COMMUNITY. RUSH

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